

[Anya's Garden Moondance and Starflower: fragrance reviews \(& a draw!\) on Perfume Shrine blog](#)

<http://perfumeshrine.blogspot.com/2009/11/anyas-garden-moondance-and-starflower.html>

When the well-trodden becomes anew there is reason for joy. If certain white flowers have always seem unattainable to you, if you found yourself avoiding tuberose for reasons too complicated to unfold, all naturals indie brand Anya's Garden has two aces up her sleeves: *Moondance* and *Starflower*, two unconventional new fragrances that ~in typical Anya style~ will surprise you!



In the words of Anya McCoy in ***Moondance*** "water mint is underfoot as you dance among the violets and tuberose, as apple herb and roses sing softly".

The ethereal touch of violets opens with a *trompe l'oeil* touch of the mint: is it there or isn't it? "This is not the direction toothpaste is going", I said to myself, when testing, as the familiar cold-on-a-hot-tongue feeling of industrial-strength fake mint didn't register. Yet, prompted by my desire to locate it, after reading the notes, I paid more attention and it is there if very subtly: But how strange! It only maxes out the dryad feeling of the woody-orris violets into cool green pistas!

Herbal scents are difficult to harness, because they seem to project at a frequency that registers them either in the culinary (lamb chops roast) or the marginally aromatherapeutic: think tisanes and hot compresses. Yet, in *Moondance* the chamomille reminds one of nothing of the sort. Instead it fuses with the Rose de Mai absolute and the natural alpha ionone isolates (i.e.violet) into a synergistic ritual dance in the forest under, you guessed it, a full moon.

Tuberose only hints at its presence, if you're not specifically searching for it, you might not realise that it is delicately weaved in here: its bombastic nature is well-behaved for once, like a loud, overactive child who is mesmerised briefly by the shooting stars into silence, as furry animals watch from a distance (Anya used hyrax tincture and hyrax absolute to render this fuzzy animalic comfort blanket). The general ambience is not unlike Isabel Doyen's creation for Les Nez [The Unicorn Spell](#) (which is similarly unisex) and lovers of the latter should definitely give a try to *Moondance*!

My only gripe would be its relatively short lasting power, which means that you could use it on a scarf or ~even better~ a leather band on your wrist (How utterly charming! Why should Kurkdjian have all the fun?)

If your tastes do not run into the timid, but you're set for no-limits throttle, full-on speed, then **Starflower** is more your thing, and by Jove, ain't it mine! Anya McCoy presents floral gourmand *Starflower* as "candy flower, dreamy and steamy, almond cherry, chocolate and tuberose bring Mexico to you".

A Mexican delicacy doesn't even begin to describe it, as luscious chocolate, allied to beautiful, slightly camphoraceous but oh-so-good-it-hurts patchouli (and possibly a maple touch) tempt the taste buds before the nostrils claim all the pleasure. There is nothing of the sanitised patchouli that mainstream brands churn out by the bucketload aiming at the fatigued nose-velcro of urbanites burned out on the *Angel*-doused armpits of commuters.



This is the spirited love affair of rich essences which do not succumb but to the skillful hands of a certain Miami shores artisanal perfumer. The result in *Starflower* is oddly animalic, deep, incredibly lasting for an all-naturals perfume, and somewhat butyric: Indeed a CO2 butter essence is hiding under the narcotically-scented tuberose (rendered into her edible vestige, posing for a screen-test with [Marcolini](#) and melting into a pool of cream).

Anya reveals: "I first became aware of its use in ice cream from an 18th Century book *Encarnación's Kitchen: Mexican Recipes from Nineteenth-Century California*, and further research showed its use in other sweet desserts. My perfume musings got me to thinking, well, let's see how it would pair with vanilla and chocolate, two other tasty and fragrant offerings from Mexico." I can only say that *Starflower* should come with a cautionary label attached: "Restrain application or you're seriously risking at having your arms (or other body parts) nibbled on!"

A small precaution if I may would be to sample *Moondance* before indulging in *Starflower*, so as not to suffocate the more ethereal into the more full-bodied, much as one would do when tasting wines of different attributes, and cork-off them for a couple of minutes before sniffing (as all-naturals are famous for being too intense to fully grasp at first).